

The Grapevine

January 2024

Volume 39, Number 5

President's Message

Public Policy

We have two important Public Policy events coming up in January.

Thursday, January 25 – an event on the topic of reproductive health rights organized by Healdsburg AAUW. Look for the flyer in this newsletter.

Sunday, January 28 – an event on the topic of gun violence led by Petaluma AAUW and co-sponsored by Santa Rosa and Healdsburg AAUW chapters. I am looking for 3-5 volunteers to carpool with me and help support the event. You can contact me at latredinnick@gmail.com to volunteer. Look for the flyer in this newsletter.

Reading Rocks Heading to Windsor!

Soon we will be adding Mattie Washburn School in Windsor to our “Reading Rocks” program. See **Cathy Mock’s** article on how to get involved.

From the Board

We were recently notified that for the second year we have been awarded a grant from the JNR Foundation to provide eight \$4,000 scholarships to graduating senior girls. Last year, this grant funded six scholarships. Many thanks to **Julie Hanamura** for her continued contact with the JNR Foundation.

We will be working on revising our bylaws to align them with AAUW National’s requirements. This work will be completed by June.

First Speakers Series

We are looking forward to hearing from Ariel Kelley on January 8. The deadline to RSVP is January 1. See the eBlasts, which were sent out in December, to RSVP. This meeting also has a time slot dedicated to updates from various board members and time to connect with other members. I’m looking forward to seeing you there.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!

Laura Tredinnick, Board President



Kim Brown, Dyan Urban, Laura Tredinnick



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Normalizing Safety: Gun Violence Prevention



January 28, 2024

2-4pm • Lucchesi Center
320 N McDowell Blvd, Petaluma

Join us in a program about guns in our community. Let's empower gun safety in Sonoma County, in our homes, in our schools and in our community.

Speakers

Featured Speakers*: Mike Thompson, Jared Huffman, US Congressional Representatives
Safety in our Community: John Maa, MD, FACS, San Francisco Marin Medical Society
Safety at Home: Heather Jennings, Moms Demand Action
Safety on our Streets: Brian Miller, Petaluma Police Deputy Chief
Safety at School: Dr. Amie Carter, SCOE & Dr. Louis Ganzler, School Culture/Safety
Safety in our Future: Mia Vaughn, Youth advocate & SRJC student

* Representatives' ability to be present may be impacted by the partial government shutdown deadline.

Join us on January 28, 2024
Child care will be available

AAUW recognizes that gun violence is a public health and safety crisis. This program is sponsored by Petaluma Branch of American Association of University Women along with co-sponsors AAUW Santa Rosa and AAUW Healdsburg.

For more information, contact AAUW Petaluma: Jean Reed, jjkreed3@gmail.com
Doris Tolks, doristolks@gmail.com • Teresa Barrett, teresa4petaluma@gmail.com



Tech Trek Alumnae Group Spreads Holiday Cheer with Graham Cracker Extravaganza

In a burst of festive creativity, TTAG alumnae, ranging from 8th to 12th grade, recently gathered at the Healdsburg library for a delightful afternoon of gingerbread house construction and inspiration.

The star of the day was Gloria Diana Ramos, a retired architect, building contractor, and college instructor, who graciously shared her experiences of designing and building affordable housing in impoverished and disaster-stricken areas across the United States and around the globe.



Following Gloria's inspiring talk, the alumnae formed teams and dove into designing and constructing their own houses using graham crackers and candy. Laughter echoed through the festively decorated room as creativity and collaboration took center stage.



The TTAGers embraced the holiday spirit of giving by contributing a Graham Cracker Village to the AAUW Holiday Party. This delectable masterpiece served dual purposes—adding a touch of whimsy to the party's décor and becoming the coveted prize for one lucky partygoer.



TTAG is a student-led group of Tech Trek graduates who want to maintain a connection with other like-minded girls as they share their interest in STEM fields and develop leadership skills. With the guidance of AAUW advisors, all TTAG events are planned and led by the group's officers and the event committee members.

Karla Rosen

Chair and Advisor, Tech Trek Alumnae Group

SAVE THE DATE!

January 25, 2024



To kick off the new year, our Public Policy Committee of the Healdsburg Branch of AAUW will lead a forum on **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**. A film will be shown and we will host guests from NorCal Planned Parenthood and other organizations. It is important that all of us are informed about the situation locally and across the nation.

Read more about how you can take action immediately: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/rallying-for-repro-rights/>

Admission will be free. Appetizers will be served. Wine, beer and non alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

More information will be publicized in early January. Reservations will be required.

What: Film and Panel Discussion

When: January 25, 2024 at 6 pm

Where: The 222

222 Healdsburg Avenue, Healdsburg

Social Activities



SAVE THE DATE!

Please put it on your calendar NOW!

Healdsburg AAUW's

"Winter Wine 'N Dine"

Saturday, February 3, 2024

Watch for an eblast in early January!

Diane Burnley and **Cindy Powers**, Healdsburg AAUW Wine 'N Dine Chairs



Cultural Event January 18 Smart Train to Larkspur Landing Save the Date



Interested in taking the SMART Train, yet don't know the logistics? Join us on January 18 for a luncheon at Larkspur's Marin Country Mart - with a variety of restaurants from the Rustic Bakery, Farmshop, Hog Island Oysters or a new French bistro. Then, explore some interesting boutiques or take a guided walk to the Ferry and learn how to connect to San Francisco.

Logistics: Time commitment: 10 am to 4 pm

1. 9:45 am - Meet at City Hall to carpool: Drive to Airport SMART station
2. Clipper Cards - Purchase a Clipper Card, round trip fare or bring your card and "Add Fare" to cover trip.
3. Board the 10:22 am train to Larkspur: travel through Sonoma and Marin towns and see how close the train stops are to restaurants, shops, theaters - places you can meet friends without the stress of driving and parking.
4. Arrive Larkspur at 11:41 am: Take a guided walk to Larkspur Landing
5. Free time to eat, shop or walk to Ferry terminal: Gather at 2 pm meeting point to walk back to the train:
6. Catch the 2:23 train to Sonoma Airport - arriving at 3:38 pm

Hope to see you there.

Liz Loebel and **Judith Olney**, Co-chairs-Cultural Events

Holiday Party a Merry Success

Seventy-six members and guests attended the 2023 AAUW Holiday Party on December 5 and everyone had a wonderful time. The setting, Charlie's at the Windsor Golf Club, was warm and festive. We socialized with old friends and made new acquaintances while we enjoyed appetizers and



wine during a social hour. **Holly Schatz** and **Pat Bertapelle** provided holiday decorations at the tables where we enjoyed our chicken pasta dinner. The door prize was the gingerbread village our TTAG girls prepared when they learned about careers in architecture.

Generous guests donated over \$900

for our Holiday School Supplies campaign.

A merry success!

Kim Alexander, Communications Director





On Monday November 20, 2023 the AAUW Monday Hiking Group had its largest turnout with 13 members hiking on a beautiful autumn day at Foothill Regional Park, led by **Cathy Mock**.

Back row (L-R) Donna Campoverde, Charlene Luks, Theresa Cabral, Jan Stanley, Beverly Hosket, AnnaLaura Jansma, Cathy Mock, Kathy Mullen. Front row (L-R) Nancy Casey, Beth Wolk, Karla Rosen, Victoria Toboni, Denny Martin.



Mission Based Programs

Holiday Gift Supplies

With your generous donations, we raised over \$900 for school supplies. Checks were delivered to Healdsburg Elementary, Fitch Mountain Campus, Westside Elementary, and North Bay Children's Center before their holiday break.

Reading Rocks

I am excited to announce that there are plans to get the Reading Rocks Program underway soon at Mattie Washburn Elementary School in Windsor. If you are interested in reading one-on-one with first or second graders, please contact Catherine Mock at ckmock54@gmail.com.

Catherine Mock

Mission Based Programs Director



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Public Policy News

A monthly dispatch from the AAUW California Public Policy Team

DID YOUR BRANCH HOLD A PUBLIC POLICY EVENT?

Share with us!

Did your branch hold a Community Event to educate your community about a Public Policy issue, or a Branch Program Meeting to educate your members on a mission-based topic? We would love to have you share information and photos of your event so that we can highlight your branch on the state AAUW Public Policy website. Please share information about your event by filling out this [form](#).

ELECTION UPDATE: SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

We are happy to report that school board candidates who were seeking to ban books and historically accurate curricula lost BIG in the November election nationwide! Current reporting tells us that only 50 of 139 school board candidates endorsed by Moms for Liberty were elected. We'll keep working to ensure that our marginalized students are accurately represented and protected through the School Board Project in California.

WHERE IS THAT?

Find All Things Public Policy

Key links to your public policy resources:

- [Google Workspace](#)
- [AAUW Policy Leaders Manual from National](#)
- [Branch Liaisons](#)
- Contact us at publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org
- Sign up for CA Legislative Action Alerts [HERE](#)! Share the sign-up link with anyone you think may be interested. AAUW members and non-members are welcome.

You can share this copy-and-paste shareable link:
<https://forms.gle/zkboxQM8gByqjGymTA>

SAVE THE DATES!

Bimonthly Virtual Meetings for Branch Public Policy Chairs

Wednesday 12/06 @ 2pm PT
Wednesday 2/07 @ 2pm PT
Wednesday 4/10* @ 2pm PT
Wednesday 6/05 @ 2pm PT

Amy and Missy will provide updates and branches will have the opportunity to share ideas.

Click [HERE](#) for meeting information.

*Note: April's meeting will be on the second Wednesday of the month, as Lobby Days is scheduled for the first week of April.

LOBBY DAYS 2024 April 2-3, 2024

Look for an interest survey including a registration form to arrive in your inbox mid-January. Be sure to complete and return the form to be added to the communications list for the event.

ARTICLE FOR YOUR JANUARY BRANCH NEWSLETTERS

Lobby Days 2024 - Save the Date!

By Amy Hom, Co-chair AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Mark your calendars! AAUW California will hold our 2024 Lobby Days event on April 2 and 3, 2024. An interest survey including a registration form will arrive in your inbox mid-January. Please be sure to complete and return the form to be added to the communications list for the event.

We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this act of advocacy that is essential for achievement of our legislative priorities. In addition to our members, we plan to invite college students to join the event. Their participation will enable us to reach more legislative offices, and we hope that this introduction to our organization will inspire these advocacy-minded young people who share our values to join AAUW.

Starting in January, our committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security for All Women, Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students, Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society, and Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles. In early March, our committee will meet to discuss our evaluations and select 30-35 bills for our 2024 Legislative Agenda that best represent our priorities. We will also choose the top 3 bills to advocate for during Lobby Days.

Lobby Days 2024 is scheduled to take place when the legislature returns to session after their Easter break, and will span two days to provide flexibility so that we can secure as many meetings as possible. We are planning a hybrid event with meetings scheduled virtually over Zoom as well as in-person at the Capitol. Members who live in and around Sacramento will have the option to participate in person. Legislative offices are equally willing to meet virtually or in person, and the virtual option makes it easier for AAUW members around the state to participate.

Our AAUW California Legislative Advocate will schedule meetings with the legislative offices. The committee will assemble teams of AAUW members and college students, matching them with Assembly and Senate districts. Training materials on the bills and the event will be posted on the state website in mid-March, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 25, 2024.

If you have participated in Lobby Days in the past, we would love to hear your feedback on what worked and what didn't. Please send your comments to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

Lobby Days is a wonderful opportunity to meet with your legislators and advocate for legislation to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to advance our values.

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS A TEXT-BASED COPY OF THE NL ARTICLE

Jennaca Hajek

2018 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC & 2019 Garren Scholarships

I graduated from Maria Carrillo High School in 2005 and have lived on my own since I was 18. I attended Santa Rosa Junior College for many years, while struggling to work full-time at a paint store and attending classes around my work schedule as best I could, making the overall process very slow. After taking an eye-opening break from school, I later returned as a re-entry student. At the time, I still was not sure what exactly I wanted to do but have always had a passion for the planet and the environment, and wanted a career dedicated to helping ecosystems thrive while encouraging humanity to live in a convenient and sustainable way. Working retail in a paint store was certainly not the way to do it, but starting a career in a completely different field when I was almost 30 was a very intimidating venture to say the least.



I eventually transferred from SRJC to Sonoma State University as a junior, majoring in biology. As I prepared for this, I knew that school must take priority, even if it meant taking out loans. It was then that I had the honor of being awarded the AAUW scholarship. Due to scheduling conflicts and the demands of being a full-time college student, I quit my job at the paint store and obtained a part-time job on campus that worked around my schedule and allowed me to work on my schoolwork during down time. While this minimum wage, part-time job was not even enough to pay rent, the AAUW scholarship provided a financial buffer during this time that made this transition much less stressful.

While attending SSU, I completed several amazing internships that allowed me to network, lead teams, and acquire hands-on experience in the field. I assisted PhD students at the UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab with their research on ocean acidification, kelp forest restoration, and the effects of climate change on estuary species. I worked as an intern for Point Blue Conservation Science on a project that uses satellite, AI, and bioacoustics analysis to advance the monitoring of biodiversity in the wilderness. I worked on vernal pool preserves and deep in California wilderness, while assisting SSU grad students with their research on threatened and endangered species, including the CA Tiger Salamander and CA Red-legged Frog. The renewal of the AAUW scholarship allowed me the flexibility to invest my time in these unpaid internships that provided me with experience I needed to obtain a job in my field. I was soon offered a part-time job with CA Department of Fish and Wildlife as a scientific aid where I collected biological data of marine species across the bay area. I completed my B.S. in Biology with a marine focus in May of 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. I graduated Magna Cum Laude and was awarded "Graduation of Distinction" from the Biology Department!

Because of my passion for the research I was doing on threatened and endangered wildlife as an undergrad, I decided to join the Girman Lab at SSU as a graduate student majoring in conservation biology immediately after completing my B.S. There I continued my undergrad research on the federally threatened CA Red-legged Frog, to aid in the conservation of the species and other species that share its habitat. I finally completed my M.S in Biology in July of 2023! Grad school was the most difficult experience I have ever endured and finally finishing school at the age of 35 seems unreal at times. I now work as an environmental consultant and scientist at ERM (Environmental Resources Management) where I specialize in threatened and endangered species and other sensitive resources in the power sector for wildfire mitigation.

Throughout my time at SSU, my hardships were many including medical expenses, my car permanently breaking down, continually raising rent, decreased work hours due to the pandemic, as well as burdensome tuition and fees. Frankly, there were many times I felt like giving up, but your scholarships allowed me to stay in school and focus on my academic endeavors that would ultimately lead to a successful, exciting, and meaningful career! I sincerely thank the generous donors of AAUW. Without your help, none of this would have been possible.



Look forward to welcoming in 2024 together!

Your Grapevine team, Kim Alexander, Kim Brown,
Judy Edmonds, Dyan Urban

Social Media Links. Make sure you are following AAUW Healdsburg on Facebook and Instagram. You'll find the most recent pictures and tidbits of info.



If you are aware of any member who is ill, has had an operation or an accident, has passed away or had a close family member pass away, please notify Holly Schatz so that a card can be sent from Healdsburg AAUW. Email: hollypschatz@gmail.com. Phone: 415-305-4559

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